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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/773,619

02/06/2004

Yiu-Ming Leung

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8357

7590

06/13/2006

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, CONG LAC T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/773,619

Applicant(s)

LEUNG, YIU-MING

Examiner

Cong-Lac Huynh

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/6/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: the application filed on 2/9/04, and the IDSs filed on 5/6/04.
2. Claims 1-24 are pending in the case. Claims 1 and 15 are independent claims.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1-3, 9-10, 15-17, 23- 24 are objected to due to the following informalities:
Regarding claim 1, it would be clearer if "at least one record to" is added after "inserting" (line 3). Claim 15 is objected to in the same issue.

Regarding claims 2, 3, 16, 17, the UCR and LCR/RCR do not need to be in quotation mark. Instead, they need to be in the whole word the first time used, so that the subsequent uses of this term, the UCR and LCR/RCR can be used and are understandable. For example, in claim 2, at first it should be "calculating a Unified Column Range (UCR) of cells..." and after that UCR is fine.

Regarding claims 9 and 23, the "n-m blank" would be clearer if changed to "(n-m) blank."

Regarding claims 10 and 24, it is suggested that the " $n-m_{\min}$ " within "inserting $n-m_{\min}$ blank rows" be changed to $(n-m_{\min})$.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-24 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objection set forth in this Office action.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tortolani et al. (US Pat No. 6,317,750, filed 10/26/98).

Burt (US Pat No. 6,990,480, priority 9/18/00).

Todd (US Pat No. 6,986,099, filed 6/28/01).

Hollcraft (US Pat App Pub No. 2004/0111666, priority 12/5/02).

Todd (US Pat App Pub No. 2006/0101326, priority 6/28/01).

Aureglia et al. (US Pat App Pub No. 2005/0015379, filed 7/26/02).

Koukerdjian et al. (US Pat App Pub No. 2005/0091206, filed 9/10/04).

Ram et al. (US Pat App Pub No. 2006/0069635, filed 9/9/03).

Palmer et al., Operation Transforms for a Distributed Shared Spreadsheet, ACM 1998, pages 69-78.

Iwerks et al., The Internet Spatial Spreadsheet: Enabling Remote Visualization of Dynamic Spatial Data and Ongoing Query Results over a Network, ACM 2003, pages 154-160.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cong-Lac Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-4125. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs (9:00-7:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Cong-Lac Huynh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2178
6/7/06